

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1
Command Serial Number: 029
Date Submitted: 22 Feb 2011

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Command Operations Report

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING
SQUADRON 77

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 55651

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: VANNICE First: JAY M.I.: R Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2010-06-25

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: COUNTER NARCO-
TERRORISM AND HOMELAND DEFENSE / CENTAM, SOUTHAM, CONUS

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): NAS JRB NEW
ORLEANS

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: COMUSNAVSOUTH

Administrative: TACTICAL SUPPORT WING

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): JOINT INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE SOUTH, OPERATION CARIB SHIELD, OPERATION CAPER FOCUS, and OPERATION AZTEC EAGLE

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: 6 E-2C, BUNO: 164493, 164353, 164393, 164485, 164486, 164487, 164483.

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 57 Enlisted: 48 Civilian: 58 (Northrop-Grumman)

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LT Eli A Rudick

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): eli.rudick@navy.mil

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Command Mailing Address: 400 Russell Ave, Hangar 4, New Orleans, LA 70143

2. Commander's Assessment

Airborne Early Warning Squadron SEVEN SEVEN (VAW-77) was established in October, 1995. It remains our nations' only reserve E-2C squadron. Nicknamed the "Nightwolves", VAW-77 is one of six squadrons assigned to the Navy Reserve's Tactical Support Wing (TSW). The primary role of the squadron is to support two major missions. The first is to provide Airborne Command, Control and Coordination (ABC3) of our nation's counter-illicit trafficking (CIT) forces in the global war on illegal drugs and terrorism. VAW-77 proved again in 2010 that it is a highly successful force in supporting the Global War on Terrorism and the ongoing enforcement of illegal narcotics trafficking.

In support of CIT operations, the Nightwolves spent 180 days deployed to forward operating locations in El Salvador and Curacao. During 2010, three squadron members were also assigned as Individual Augmentees serving in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, and Iraq.

VAW-77 also aggressively sought to improve E-2C employment methods, pioneering tactics that revolutionized CIT and E-2C expeditionary operations. As the leading experts in E-2C CIT and expeditionary employment, the Nightwolves significantly

expanded coverage in US Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) by simultaneously conducting operations from the primary deployment sites as well as tactically utilizing forward deployed locations throughout the AOR, including Aruba, Barbados, and Puerto Rico.

VAW-77's contributions to CIT operations were substantial. During 2010, VAW-77 directly contributed to the seizure and disruption of more than four metric tons of illicit narcotics with a street value worth of 408 million dollars. Additionally, VAW-77's efforts led to the arrest of 31 suspected Narco-terrorists.

Key contributors to the squadron's success for the year was the flexible, efficient, support from the entire Nightwolf team, allowing constant aircraft availability, aircrew peak readiness, and tremendous deployment logistical management. The extremely talented Northrop Grumman contract maintenance team consistently provided mission capable aircraft during every deployment, resulting in a sortie completion rate of 99 percent.

3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology:

- a. JAN10 - MAR10 CIT Deployment, CSL Comalapa, El Salvador.
- b. APR10 - JUN10 CIT Deployment, CSL Comalapa, El Salvador.
- c. JUL10 - AUG10 CIT Deployment, CSL Comalapa, El Salvador.
- d. OCT10 - NOV10 CIT Deployment, FOL Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

Narrative:

The Nightwolves continued their impeccable safety record in 2010, flying 794 sorties, 462 of which were on deployment, accumulating over 2,521 flight hours, of which 1,919 hours were in direct support of deployed CIT operations. VAW-77 maintained a perfect safety record of zero flight mishaps and over 15,429 maintenance man-hours with zero ground mishaps, a feat which culminated in VAW-77 being awarded the Safety "S" award for 2010.

JAN10 - MAR10 CIT Deployment: During the first and longest deployment of 51 days to El Salvador, VAW-77 tracked and reported 49 suspect surface vessels, approximately 25 percent of the total number in the Eastern Pacific AOR, and 33 percent of

the suspect air tracks to Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S). This effort enabled the disruption of .9 metric tons of illicit drugs totaling 90 million dollars. During OPERATION AZTEC EAGLE, the squadron flew Double Eagle missions with partner nation Mexico, who employed the CASA-212 and 235, both preeminent maritime patrol aircraft. The directed search provided by VAW-77 E-2C aircrew allowed for extremely efficient target area sanitization of the Mexican littorals and suspected illicit trafficking routes. The Nightwolves safely flew 530.8 hours of CIT operations by averaging nearly 12 hours each day and sustaining a remarkable three sorties per day all while recording a 99.4 percent sortie completion rate.

APR10 - JUN10 CIT Deployment: Over the 41 days of the command's second and shortest deployment of the year to El Salvador, the Nightwolves tracked a total 307 surface tracks, an impeccable 56 percent of all surface tracks reported to JIATF-S in the EASTPAC AOR. 36 of those tracks were suspect surface vessels. VAW-77 accounted for 30 percent of the total number of EASTPAC surface tracks of interest reported to JIATF-S. The deployment saw continued success and further effectiveness of joint US and Mexico operations in OPERATION AZTEC EAGLE. These efforts directly influenced the disruption of 1.7 metric tons of illicit drugs totaling 120 million dollars. VAW-77 safely flew 463 hours of Counter Narcotics (CN) support averaging nearly 12 hours and 2.6 sorties per day while recording a 98.2 percent sortie completion rate for the deployment.

JUL10 - AUG10 CIT Deployment: While conducting the command's third deployment of the year encompassing 48 days in El Salvador, the Nightwolves reported 336 total surface contacts out of which 53 ended up being suspect vessels. This number made up over 27 percent of the total number of EASTPAC surface tracks of interest and 48 percent of the total surface tracks submitted to JIATF-S in the EASTPAC AOR. These numbers contributed to the disruption of over 1.2 metric tons of illicit drugs totaling 168 million dollars and the arrest of 26 suspected narco-traffickers. The Nightwolves conducted Double Eagle missions with the US Navy P-3 squadron co-located in El Salvador as well as US Coast Guard C-130s working in the JIATF-S AOR. The Nightwolves continued to build upon operational success working with Partner Nation Mexico and the Mexican Navy CASA-212/235 maritime patrol aircraft as part of OPERATION AZTEC EAGLE. The squadron recorded an unprecedented 100 percent sortie completion rate while safely flying 529.1 hours of CIT support averaging 11 hours and 2.6 sorties per day.

OCT10 - NOV10 CIT Deployment: The final deployment of the year lasting 42 days was the squadrons first to Curacao in over three years. The squadron was still able to track and target nine suspect air tracks of interest, making up a staggering 47 percent of the total number of suspect air tracks reported to JIATF-S during the course of this deployment. In addition, the squadron also reported and tracked six suspect surface contacts of interest, making up approximately 11 percent of the total number in the Caribbean AOR. The Nightwolves conducted coordinated joint Double Eagle missions with DEA B-200's, as well as flights with Netherland's Coast Guard Dash 8's and French Customs 401's expertly sanitizing the littorals of Colombia and Venezuela and down the West Indies from Puerto Rico down to Barbados. These flights, as well as E-2 Double Eagle operations and self-contained searches culminated in the arrest of five suspected narco-traffickers and numerous unquantifiable disruptions. In addition to fostering better relations with Partner Nations, for the first time in over a year, the Nightwolves were able to significantly expanded CIT coverage in the SOUTHCOM AOR by simultaneously operating from the primary deployment site in Curacao and secondary sites Aruba, Barbados, and Puerto Rico. The Nightwolves finished the year with another mishap-free 396.2 hours of CN support averaging 9.4 hours and 2.3 sorties per day while recording a 90 percent sortie completion rate.

The squadron's complement of awards includes a Joint Meritorious Unit award, two Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, four Noel Davis Battle "E" awards, seven Safety "S" awards, two Blue "M" awards, one CNAFR Reserve Squadron of the Year Award and two Retention Excellence Awards.

These amazing efforts by the Northrop Grumman maintenance team, Nightwolf aircrew, and Full Time Support ground personnel contributed significantly to joint military operations conducted in support OPERATIONS CARIB SHIELD, CAPER FOCUS, AND AZTEC EAGLE and the coordination of 21 airlift evolutions moving 508 personnel and 906,000 lbs of equipment into the AOR all with ZERO liberty and ZERO safety incidents.

4. Supporting Reports

- a. JAN10 - MAR10 End of Action Report
- b. APR10 - JUN10 End of Action Report

- c. JUL10 - AUG10 End of Action Report
 - d. OCT10 - NOV10 End of Action Report
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5. Published Documents

- a. Approach Article: May-Jun 2010 - "ORM: Run or Fly?"
 - b. Approach Article: Jul-Aug 2010 - "CRM: Is Your Trim Working?"
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6. Photographs

- a. Aviation Week & Space Technology, 20-27 December 2010



J. R. VANNICE